

The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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A Rousing Reception Should be Accorded Secretary Gilbreath

EX-GOV. GILCHRIST VISITS MIAMI

Campaigning for United Senator Discusses the Contest with a Newspaper Reporter

Hon. Albert W. Gilchrist, former governor of Florida, candidate for United States senator, and owner of two hats—his own and "grandpa's"—arrived in Miami Thursday, night spent yesterday and last night in hand-to-hand communion with the voting population, and will remain here according to his calculations, until Monday when he will leave for points south of here.

The hat worn by Mr. Gilchrist is the one he facetiously calls his own. It is photographed on some of the campaign literature which he is distributing. Another hat, of the "plug" variety, the "grandpa hat," also appears in prominent relief on the literature, and looks as though it might be intended for a cast net to gather in the votes of Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists and those of all the religious faiths, for just such hats were worn by the forefathers of all church devotees now in the country.

Incidentally it is interesting to hear from Mr. Gilchrist that he thinks they are coming his way, and that the race for United States senator is between himself and Messrs. Bryan and Trammell.

The former governor has, in this trip, visited the entire state except five or six counties, all the way down from the Alabama line. His methods are distinctively his own, the same as those which elevated him to the gubernatorial pinnacle a few years ago. He only rides on trains between stations. While in towns and cities he undertakes to meet every man face to face, hand out his printed platform and become acquainted. Virtually, he is on a walking campaign, and it means many hours a day of hard work and little of ease.

"Why don't you let a boy distribute your literature?" he was asked yesterday.

"Simply because I want to meet the people and take a look at them," he replied. "When I meet them they are anxious to read what I have written, and when they do that I am reasonably sure they are not going to oppose me."

Says it is Three-Cornered

"How does the campaign look to you?" was asked by a representative of The Miami Herald. "You can judge from this," he replied. "In any county in Florida the well-posted citizens will tell you the race is between Gilchrist and Trammell or Gilchrist and Bryan. This is a very satisfactory situation as I view it."

"Are you hearing much on the prohibition question?"

"My opponents, Bryan and Trammell, have come out for national prohibition. I have stated, and it is my platform, that whichever way the state votes on that question, I will vote as a senator in congress. Therefore the prohibitionists who are for me are satisfied with my position, and those who are opposed to me would vote against me whether I went the whole hog or not. The prohibition vote of the state will be divided between Bryan, Trammell and myself. You have asked me some questions, now let me ask you—who do you think will lead in Pensacola, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Palm Beach, Miami, Key West and Tampa?"

The newspaper man did not reply, but it was evident that Mr. Gilchrist had in mind someone whose name begins with a G.

"In the smaller towns," he said, "and in the country, I have always won out, and will this time. When I ran for governor I received the majority vote in every county in Florida except Sumter and Lee. I will carry Lee county this time, but I don't

know about Sumter." Mr. Gilchrist spoke of the Everglades. "My opponent, Mr. Stockton, promises Lee county to carry out the drainage schemes under any circumstances. I tell them that a proposition of this kind, requiring the expenditure of millions of dollars, is one of business and not of politics, and that I will act accordingly to my best judgment. My record in that respect is known."

On this subject he added that a bill was introduced in congress by John Sharp Williams and Speaker Clark providing for the expenditure of about fifteen millions of dollars then held by the government and derived from the sales of lands in the various states. This bill provided for the expenditure of this money in the purchase of drainage bonds, the government to sell the bonds, buy more bonds, and thus keep up an endless chain of drainage bond buying. "I will do my best to see that measure enacted into law," said Mr. Gilchrist.

The literature which he is distributing personally contains some racy reading, many side-lights on political matters, and is worth perusal by those who want information about the campaign which is now getting to white heat.—Miami Herald, Feb. 12.

Fort Myers Press, Feb. 18.—A. B. Tucker of Punta Gorda, was a business visitor in Fort Myers over night, having come to Fort Myers in the interest of the good roads movement with which he is identified in DeSoto county.

Plant Leguminous Crop for Citrus Grove

There may be plenty of nitrogen in the soil for your citrus trees now. But you may have a different story to tell in eight weeks. That is a habit nitrogen has in these loose citrus soils. It stays in just long enough for the grower to decide that he will not need to plant a cover crop. Readily available nitrogen leaches rapidly. Its availability depends on its ready solubility. The supply available for the plant may leach from an open soil within eight weeks. The trees show need of it by yellowing.

B. F. Floyd, plant physiologist to the University of Florida Experiment Station, advises those growers who intend to apply very little or no fertilizer during the summer to adopt some means of supplying and maintaining the nitrogen. Cultivation of leguminous cover crops is the best method. No matter whether the grower plans to fertilize or not he should grow legumes in his grove. They furnish not only nitrogen but humus and organic matter as well which are necessary for the maintenance of soil life. Wherever conditions will permit, cover crops should be planned before planting time.

Cowpeas and beggar weed are the favorites because they can be grown quickly. Velvet beans are fully as good as, if not better than, either, but owing to their rank growth they are apt to smother the trees or interfere with their growth otherwise. Seed should be obtained for the cover crop before planting time.

The regular meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was held in the Baptist church, Feb. 18th. After the business was disposed of, Dr. Duke gave an eloquent address, which was of great benefit to all who heard him.

The members of the Junior Epworth League of the Methodist church, chaperoned by Mrs. J. H. Hancock and Miss Dorothy Rasmussen, had a joyous time, Saturday, picnicking on the beach at Capt. Bearce's place in Solana.

Whether vindicated in any of his remaining conceptions of the present war, Lord Kitchener certainly had a fine eye for length.

Dixie Highway Official Coming to Punta Gorda

All Automobile Owners Urged to Join Committee to Meet Him at Shell Creek Bridge

It is earnestly desired and of great importance that every automobile owner in this vicinity join the committee and go in his car to meet Secretary W. S. Gilbreath of the Dixie Highway Association tomorrow afternoon. The people of this section should manifest all the good roads enthusiasm possible on this occasion; and to be received by a large number of citizens in automobiles as he comes to the city, will no doubt make a favorable impression upon Mr. Gilbreath. Automobiles should be in readiness to go at a moment's notice, as a telephone message will announce the departure of the party from Arcadia, and the Punta Gorda party should meet the Arcadia party at Shell creek bridge or at Fort Ogden.

Plans are being made for entertaining Mr. Gilbreath at supper at the Seminole hotel, when some twenty-five representative Punta Gordans will dine with him, and at 9 o'clock in Dixie Theatre there will be a meeting for the discussion of the Dixie Highway project. This meeting should be attended by every one.

Either on Friday afternoon or on Saturday morning, Secretary Gilbreath and party will go over that portion of the auxiliary Dixie Highway route that leads south from this city to the Lee county line, and it is hoped to have a number of Punta Gorda cars and representative citizens accompany them.

As soon as it is known definitely as to what are the plans of Mr. Gilbreath, it will be circulated about the city so that all may be informed who can take part in the functions on the occasion of his visit.

Let every citizen show his enthusiasm and help stress the fact that Punta Gorda is for and wants the Dixie Highway to come this way, and that the logical route is through this city.

Hon. W. V. Knott Holds Some Sound Views

Hon. W. V. Knott, candidate for governor, holds some sound views on state questions and in his platform expresses himself on one issue in terms that will meet with the general approval of the state press and the thinking public. Mr. Knott says: "Our existing libel laws as applied to the press, and interpreted by our courts are too restrictive, and, under my prerogative as governor, I shall urge upon the legislature such amendments to and revision of the libel laws as will give to the press absolute liberty of publication when made in the public interest and without malice."—Plant City Courier.

Mr. Knott has incorporated into his platform a plank which appeals very strongly to the newspaper people of Florida, and we trust that all his competitors in the race will see, the point and adopt the same plank. He is tired of the gross, flagrant injustice to the newspapers of Florida in the present tyrannous and restrictive libel laws. "We suggest to all the candidates for governor that they step right up on the plank in Candidate Knott's platform in which he pledges himself to use his influence, if elected, to secure a libel law for this state that does not outrage every principle of justice and common sense, as is the case with the present one. As that law now is, it seems designed to restrict the legitimate rights of the newspaper in the spirit of pure tyranny and incidentally to aid the damage suit lawyer whose eagle eye is always piercing the horizon in all directions seeking for a chance to scare up a damage suit."—Lake-land Telegram.

Among the planks which go to make up the platform of Hon. W. V. Knott, is one which will doubtless be met with satisfaction by every newspaper publisher in the state as well as by that vast number of people who believe in free speech and an unmuzzled press. It is a fact that cannot be disputed that Florida's newspapers are muzzled as no other newspapers in the United States, and that as a result the papers are forced to suppress much of the news and happenings of the day that the public is justly entitled to and has every reason to expect.

Under a recent decision of the Supreme Court at Tallahassee, the daily and weekly publications are placed in a most peculiar and unwarranted position. If there

was ever need for a revision of the libel laws of any State, that need is in Florida today. One of the first things that should be taken up by the Legislature of next year should be a revision of these laws which now permit the criminal, the fakir and forger and the what-nots to pester and hamper the publication of a newspaper with legitimate aims and purposes. Florida newspapers have long ago realized this need; but it was not until the recent decision of the Supreme Court above referred to, that this need was driven into the minds of publishers and the public generally in a forceful manner. . . .

The Metropolis sincerely hopes that every candidate for Governor will view the situation as does Mr. Knott and that each and every one of them will declare themselves on the subject of "freedom of the press." No man who is not in sympathy with laws which would give the newspaper the right to print "all the news that's fit to print," should receive the endorsement of Florida Democrats, for he would be in sympathy with suppressing one of the guarantees of the federal constitution.—The Florida Metropolis.

South Florida

There was a time when people went to California quite indifferently where they struck the State at Shasta, San Francisco, or Los Angeles. But all that is changed now. No one ever goes to California any more, they just run out to Los Angeles. You can meet a hundred men in a day who have been out to the coast, and when you ask them to locate their place of visit it will be Los Angeles in more than 90 per cent. of the cases.

It likewise used to be that people came to Florida indifferently, and it made but little difference whether they stopped off at Jacksonville or went to some other point in the state. But all that is changed now, and you can stand in the depot at Jacksonville and question the tourists as to their destination, and more than 90 per cent. of them will answer, "South Florida."

Now there is a great big why for all this in both States. Some years ago a citrus fair was in operation in Los Angeles, and the only ripe oranges displayed came from the foothills above Sacramento, and yet the people scurried

ed right by that section and stopped not till they had a bed hired in a big Los Angeles hotel at a fancy price. And the same is true here in Florida. Where can there be found finer citrus fruit than is grown at Crescent City, and yet who knows a thing about the place? Where are there to be had finer strawberries than all produced in Bradford county, and yet the prospective purchaser of Florida berry land scoots right through that section and hies himself down to Plant City. And so it is all the way through the catalog.

But now for the why of it all. It is simply publicity and promotion. In Los Angeles thousands and thousands of dollars were invested in boom editions of the city papers and sent broadcast all over the East. During the flood tide of immigration which struck California in 1878, the trains were all unloaded at Sacramento and San Francisco. When the next boom of immigration struck the State, not a man ever thought of stopping north of Tehachapi. No man would rest easy till he could arise in the morning and feast his eyes on Old Baldy.

In South Florida they have wide-awake newspapers, boards of trade, active business men, get-up-and-go Rotary clubs, and all that goes to make it worth while for a man to come into the community and invest his money and help build up the country. They have good roads and fine farms and all that goes to make a community prosperous and thrifty.—Gainesville Sun.

Start Saving Now for an Education

Do you know a boy or girl who would like to have an education? You do. There are several in every community. Perhaps you have children who would like to have an education or whom you would like to send to school. Do you know why more children do not go to school? They have not the necessary funds.

Why not begin saving now? If you are like almost every man you meet you cannot spare \$200 to \$400 a year to send your child to college. But if you had started saving fifteen years ago you could have had the money and you never would have missed the small monthly savings. Plans are under consideration at the University of Florida for an educational savings fund. A deposit will be provided in one bank in each county. The money will be available to the child or person under whose name it is deposited at the age of twenty or when the child is ready to go to college. Persons will not be required to attend the University of Florida. It is probable that banks will compound the interest quarterly.

This plan will enable many parents to send their children to college who would not be able to do so otherwise. It will also promote the habit of saving not only in the parents but in the child as well.

R. C. Blount enjoyed the experience of an automobile head-on collision and wreck on Sunday night of last week. He was alone in his own car going into Tampa; and, when in the neighborhood of Dover, while crossing a short bridge he met another car driven by Dr. Wright of Plant City. The latter made an error in movement and the two cars came together. Dr. Wright's car was wrecked, the Blount car badly damaged and all hands shaken up. The only personal injury was suffered by a lady in the Wright car, who received a small cut on her forehead.

A. J. Welch's mansion in Lavilla will soon be finished. It is a big house, containing ten or twelve rooms; and, when finished, will be not only one of the most comfortable and convenient in town, but one of the handsomest.

ALLIES BOMBARD GERMANS

Reports from Western Battlefront — Turkish Losses — Erzerum — Air Raids

London, Eng.—Reports from the western battlefront indicate that the allies are bombarding German positions south of Somme where they also repulsed a strong German attack. The French report also tells of destruction of a German Zeppelin by French anti-aircraft guns at Revigny.

The Petrograd official statement today announces that the Turks' losses at Erzerum when the Russians captured the string of fortresses surrounding the city amounted to 40,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners.

The Germans report that every attempt of the British to regain recently lost ground in the Ypres sector has been repulsed.

Following up their victory energetically, the Russians are pursuing the Turks westward from Erzerum, as well as to the north and the south, as the Turkish forces have split and fled in all directions. The different Ottoman groups, according to Petrograd advices, have been cut off from communication with each other, while the Russians are declared to have solidified their own lines so that their advance is rapidly becoming a forward drive along an unbroken front from the Black sea to Mush, west of Lake Van.

On the north, Trebizond is threatened, the Russians having pushed close to the Black sea port in their operations along the Coast, while the Russian forces from Erzerum are reported near the coast city.

Differences between Greece and the entente allies over military questions appear to be in a way to be smoothed out as the result of a visit of General Sarrail, the French commander in the Balkans, to King Constantine. The king has expressed himself as confident that the interview marked the first step toward the end of the difficulties.

The Austrians are continuing their air raids over Italian territory. The latest flights were across the province of Brescia, and towards Milan. Some report four persons killed and five wounded, with very slight material damage.

In Petrograd, the Russian duma met Tuesday. It has not been in session since last September, when it was prorogued.

The British delegation to the Anglo-French parliamentary committee began Tuesday its conferences in Paris with an equal number of French senators and deputies, the object being full discussion of the conduct of the war with a view to the guidance of the parliaments of the two nations.

A communication published in last week's HERALD calls attention to a lesson that Punta Gorda may learn from New York in the matter of sewer connection on the streets that are to be paved with asphalt. The point is that the connections should be made, at least sewer pipes should be laid from the main sewers to the property lines, before the streets are paved to avoid having the paving torn up afterwards. A member of the city council advises that an ordinance will probably be enacted assessing a penalty of at least \$25 in every case where the asphalt is torn up for such connections or other purposes after the streets are paved.

The north-bound passenger train which should have left here at 4:10 p. m. last Saturday, was delayed nearly four hours by a freight caboose across the track at Adeline.

Mrs. J. S. Banister spent Tuesday in Arcadia.